

a long chapter on involuntional melancholia? Or sections on politics, or the creative process or the women's movement?

Nevertheless there is a great deal of relevant material, some of it not otherwise easily accessible to the student who confines himself to textbooks. The psychiatric syndromes, including those of childhood, are presented in detail without theoretical bias. There are also long accounts of treatment, in which drug treatment is adequately covered.

J. L. GIBBONS

Innovative Medical-Psychiatric Therapies By R. M. Suinn and R. G. Weigel. (Pp. 297; illustrated; £12.25.) University Park Press: Baltimore. 1976.

This volume consists of a selection of 21 scientific papers reprinted from mainly American psychiatric and medical journals which are readily available in most good libraries. The papers span a period from 1938 to 1970 but 10 of them were published in 1967 and 1968.

It is certainly true that most papers accurately reflect psychiatric thoughts at the time that they were conceived and provide the reviewer with a strong *déjà vu* experience. Whether most of them can truly be called 'innovative' is very debatable and very few of them could be described as 'key' papers. It is of interest that none of them are currently on the recommended reading list of the Royal College of Psychiatrists for postgraduate students and also their views are generally too dated to be much use as examples of current therapy in psychiatry for non-specialist consumption.

While individual papers are certainly of interest, anyone with access to an adequate library could prepare his own compatible selection of key papers at approximately half the cost of this volume. As a clinical tutor with responsibility for selecting material for a psychiatric library I could not feel that this volume would add any new information and justify its cost in these times of poor sterling exchange.

J. I. EVANS

Recent Advances in Clinical Psychiatry: No. 2 By K. Granville-Grossman. (Pp. 358; illustrated; £12.00.) Churchill-Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1976.

The first volume in this series was a tour-de-force by Dr. Granville-Grossman. It amounted to a whole series of authoritative reviews of recent work in psychiatry. For the second volume Dr. Granville-Grossman has confined himself to the editorial chair, entrusting the reviews to experts in each field.

Inevitably the unity of style of the first volume is absent. But both the experts and the topics are well chosen. The topics include clinical psychopharmacology (M. Lader), the depressions and neuroses of later life (D. W. K. Kay), social factors in mental illness (J. Grad de Alarçon), marital breakdown (S. Crown). Psychology, behaviour therapy, 'psychosurgery', epilepsy, and child psychiatry are also represented.

The book can be most warmly recommended. It is obviously essential reading for all postgraduate trainees in psychiatry. In addition I recommend that every psychiatrist should have a copy because, however experienced and however well-read, he cannot fail to learn a great deal from it.

J. L. GIBBONS

Psychological Medicine—An Introduction to Psychiatry By Desmond Curran, Maurice Partridge, and Peter Storey. (Pp. 444; £5.75.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1976.

Despite an avalanche of paperback competitors, this book seems to have held firm over more than 30 years of publication. The reasons are not hard to find; it is balanced and sensible, practical rather than philosophical, and one of the authors at least has an enviable gift for apposite analogy and felicitous phrasemaking.

Criticisms, naturally, reflect a personal bias. This reviewer would like to see changes in the sections on psychosomatic medicine, which is short rather than weak; on Psychotherapy in which an infusion of ideas from some of the more recent thinking on personality change and counselling would be invigorating; and on Personality Disorders

in which a brave but not wholly successful attempt has been made to grasp a formidable conceptual nettle.

Having said this, the book remains a reasonably priced and more than adequate introduction to psychiatry, and can be recommended with little hesitation to medical students and even junior postgraduates.

A. C. MACFIE

Hormones, Behaviour and Psychopathology Edited by E. J. Sachar (Pp. 307; illustrated; \$27.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

Despite many biochemical hypotheses about the aetiology of psychiatric disorders there are few, if any, hard facts. It has been a salutary experience for researchers to discover, over the years, the many pitfalls, such as lack of homogeneity of the clinical samples and variables *e.g.* physical activity and psychological stress. This book, which reports the proceedings of a meeting of the American Psychopathological Association in March 1975, is distinctly encouraging in that the contributors are clearly aware of the complexities of the biological systems they are dealing with, and are cautious in interpreting findings. Topics include hormonal influence on memory processes, anti-androgen therapy of sex offenders, psychoneuroendocrinology of anorexia nervosa, neuroendocrine regulation in affective disorders, and serum prolactin levels as a possible measure of brain dopamine receptor activity in schizophrenia. Much of what is reported may eventually prove irrelevant but it is a useful review of current knowledge of endocrine aspects of psychiatric disease.

J. A. G. WATT

Obsessional States Edited by H. R. Beech. (Pp. 352; £3.60.) Methuen University Paperbacks: London. 1976.

This book is a reissue in softcover of the 1974 hardback first edition. It is edited by a clinical psychologist, the fourteen contributors being either psychologists or psychiatrists. There are three parts to the book dealing with 'Clinical and Psychometric Descriptions', including a